

PORTAGE COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

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April 9, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 12 Students:

The purpose of this letter is to provide some information about the Grad 2021 activities and ceremony. Some of this information has already been shared in the school newsletter, daily announcements and Grade 12 Google Classroom. Updates will also be posted on the PCI website under the Grad tab:

<http://www.plpsd.mb.ca/pci/grad/grad2021>

Grad Portraits

Grad portraits are scheduled for April 14-16 in the PCI Library. There is a \$25 sitting fee payable at the time of booking with Mrs. Murray. For students who do not want a full sitting, please sign up for a composite picture (free of charge) for the yearbook and grad composite photo. Every grad receives the grad composite photo in their grad package. This is the photo that includes all PCI grads for 2021.

Grad Fee

PCI asks that Grade 12 students pay a grad fee of \$45 to help cover the costs associated with Grad (grad gown rental, composite photo of all graduates, ceremony expenses, etc.) Part of this fee includes the cost of a Grad Tea raffle ticket booklet.

Grad Tea

The Grad Tea format has changed this year to accommodate current health restrictions. This is our only grad fundraiser, and the Grade 12 students will be selling Silent Auction/Raffle Tickets which are now available for pick-up from Mrs. Murray in the Main Office. The cost of the first booklet is covered in the \$45 grad fee. Our graduates are encouraged to sell as many booklets as possible; each additional booklet is \$20. Booklets are pre-paid and you keep the money once you sell the tickets. If parents or community members would like to make a prize donation for the draws, please contact Charlotte Mason at cmason@plpsd.mb.ca. Raffle tickets must be

returned to the Main Office before the end of April. The draws will be made on Monday, May 3rd. Winners will be contacted and posted on the PCI Website under the Grad 2021 tab.

Please see Mrs. Murray to pay your grad fee and pick up a raffle ticket booklet as soon as possible.

Grad Gowns

A reminder to Grade 12 students: If you haven't submitted your grad gown measurements yet, please do so using the form posted in the Grade 12 Google Classroom by April 30th.

Student Voice

In late February and early March, Grade 12 students had an opportunity to provide feedback and ideas about graduation. See below for some of the results of the student voice survey:

- Class Valedictorian nominations were made and narrowed down to 7 potential candidates. The second round of voting closes today and the valedictorian will be announced next week.
- Students were given the opportunity to sign up for a Grade 12 highlight video committee and a Grade 12 yearbook committee.
- Last year, all graduates received a personalized lawn sign. After feedback from this year's Grade 12's, graduates will have the option of choosing a personalized lawn sign or a Grad 2021 swag package consisting of an insulated water bottle, lanyard, and key chain bottle opener. The approximate cost for either option is \$26. Graduates can choose one for free and if they would like both, they can pay for the second option. A Google form will be sent to students next week and we ask that all orders be completed by Friday, April 30th to ensure orders arrive in time. If no choice is made, the swag package will be given at Graduation.
- Last year, graduates were arranged alphabetically for the ceremony. As a result of feedback, students had an opportunity to indicate their preferences of peer groupings in the survey. We will do our best to ensure students are grouped with as many friends as possible.

Convocation & Awards Ceremony

We are tentatively planning the graduation ceremony as follows:

On Monday, June 28, 2021 we will be recognizing our graduates and their achievements through a combined Convocation & Awards Ceremony which will take place on a stage outdoors on the PCI Plaza. We are anticipating approximately 200 PCI

graduates this year. Graduates will be scheduled for a one-hour timeslot between 1:00-8:00 pm.

Last year when health restrictions were looser, the graduates were assigned a specific time slot within the hour, and were permitted a maximum of 4 guests for each graduate. The outdoor gathering capacity at that time was 100 people. For this year's Graduation, we must once again follow health restrictions set by the Province and are therefore tentatively planning a similar format to last year's Grad. We will adjust accordingly if restrictions are loosened to accommodate our large graduating class.

Once again, a photographer will be taking pictures of the graduates as they receive their diplomas on stage. There will also be photo booths set up for graduates and their family and friends. The Convocation & Awards Ceremony will be livestreamed on PCI Channel 1. After the Ceremony, the video links will be posted on the PCI website under the Grad 2021 tab.

Another update will be sent to parents and potential graduates in May with more details and specific information. We thank you for your patience as we navigate the challenges associated with the global pandemic.

Sincerely,



Mr. Gregg Waldvogel
Principal



Mrs. Jody Budz
Vice Principal of Grade 12 & Mature Students